

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE
READABILITY INDEX OF THE FORM FOUR
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEXTBOOK AND THE
READING LEVEL OF SECONDARY FOUR
STUDENTS IN JOHOR**

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Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for
the degree of

Masters of Education

Faculty of Education

Feb 2014

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

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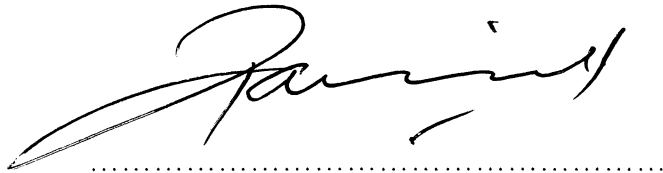
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Thesis Tittle : The Relationship between the Readability Index of the
Form Four English Language Textbook and the Reading
Level of Secondary Four Students in Johor

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Parmjit Singh', written over a dotted line.

Prof. Dr. Parmjit Singh a/l Aperapar Singh

ABSTRACT

Secondary school acts as a platform in preparing students for tertiary education. A lot of readings in English are required once they enter tertiary education as most of the reading materials are written in English language. Therefore, it is crucial for the secondary teachers to make sure the reading materials used will be able to improve students' reading skills. This study investigated the readability level of Form Four English textbook used in Malaysian schools and its relationship with students' reading level. Utilizing a descriptive correlational research design, 178 Form four students (16 years of age) from Science and Arts stream students from three different schools were chosen by using simple-random sampling technique. Two instruments namely Flesch Reading Ease Formula and Cloze test were used. The Flesch Reading Ease Formula indicated that the textbook is at standard difficulty (appropriate for readers aged 13 to 14 years old), which is below the reading age of the targeted readers. The findings also revealed that majority of the students (45.5%) read the textbook at frustration reading level indicating that the materials that are too difficult for the reader, followed with instructional level that indicates materials are appropriate for students but need teachers' support and guidance (30.9%) and independent level indicates that the materials are too easy for the readers (15.2%). However, no significant relationship was found between gender and students' reading level. It is suggested that text materials to be presented to these students should be suitable with students' reading level and able to provide optimal challenge to the readers.

ABSTRAK

Sekolah Menengah merupakan satu platform dalam mempersiapkan diri pelajar ke alam pengajian tinggi. Pembacaan di dalam Bahasa Inggeris banyak diperlukan sejurus mereka melangkah ke pengajian tinggi. Oleh itu, adalah penting bagi guru-guru di sekolah menengah memastikan bahan bacaan yang digunakan akan dapat menggilap kemahiran pelajar dalam mempersiapkan diri ke alam baru. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji kebolehbacaan buku teks Bahasa Inggeris Tingkatan Empat yang digunakan di sekolah-sekolah di Malaysia dan hubungannya dengan tahap bacaan pelajar. Menggunakan reka bentuk penyelidikan korelasi deskriptif, seramai 178 orang pelajar tingkatan empat (berumur 16 tahun) daripada aliran Sains dan Sastera dari tiga buah sekolah telah dipilih melalui kaedah persampelan secara rawak. Dua instrumen iaitu Formula Flesch dan ujian Kloz telah digunakan. Melalui kiraan menggunakan Formula Flesch, menunjukkan bahawa buku teks ini adalah pada kesukaran standard (sesuai untuk pembaca yang berumur 13-14 tahun), iaitu di bawah umur pembaca sasaran. Hasil kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa majoriti pelajar (45.5%) membaca buku teks dengan tahap kesukaran menandakan material digunakan adalah terlalu sukar bagi pembaca, diikuti dengan tahap instructional yang menandakan pembacaan yang memerlukan bantuan pengajaran (30.9%) dan secara independent iaitu menandakan material yang digunakan terlalu mudah bagi pembaca (15.2 %). Walau bagaimanapun, terdapat hubungan yang signifikan didapati diantara jantina dengan tahap bacaan pelajar. Adalah dicadangkan bahawa bahan-bahan teks yang akan dikemukakan kepada pelajar-pelajar ini perlulah dipadankan dengan tahap bacaan pelajar dan hendaklah dapat memberikan cabaran yang optimum kepada pembaca.